Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01745 011002Z ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2007 INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

SECRETKINSHASA 1745

EXDIS

KHARTOUM/MOGADISCIO FOR ASST SEC SEELYE

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, CG, UG

SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S INTERVENTION WITH AMIN

REF: KINSHASA 1685

- 1. PRESIDENT MOBUTU TELEPHONED ME EARLY THIS MORNING AND READ TEXT OF MESSAGE HE HAD JUST RECEIVED REPORTING RESULTS OF GOZ AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE TO AMIN ON BEHALF OF AMERICANS IN UGANDA. MAIN POINTS OF MESSAGE AS CONVEYED TO ME BY MOBUTU, WERE AS FOLLOWS:
- A. CONTRARY TO RUMORS, THERE IS NO PROBLEM, AND THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM ("IL N'Y AURA RIEN"), FOR THE AMERICANS.
- B. PRESIDENT CARTER DOESN'T YET KNOW AMIN, WHO "SUPPORTED CARTER FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN".
- C. REASON FOR CALLING MEETING IS SIMPLY TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO AMERICANS AND PROVIDE THEM WITH "GOOD SURPRISE". THEIR WORK IN UGANDA IS APPRECIATED AND AT MEETING AMIN WILL AWARD THEM MEDALS FOR THEIR SERVICES.
- D. THE AMERICANS IN UGANDA DO NOT WANT TO GO HOME; THEY APPRECIATE UGANDA'S HOSPITALITY DESPITE ABSENCE OF SECRET

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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

- E. AMIN WISHES MOBUTU TO BE HIS SPOKESMAN ("INTERPRET") WITH AMERICANS, AGAINST WHOM HE HOLDS NO GRUDGE. AMIN IS ONLY WAITING FOR RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND REOPENING OF US EMBASSY IN KAMPALA.
- F. AMIN ALSO APPEALS TO MOBUTU TO HELP PROMOTE TOURISM TO BENEFIT BOTH UGANDA AND ZAIRE.

- 2. MOBUTU, WHO HAD ALSO TELEPHONED LAST NIGHT TO ADVISE ME
 THAT BBC WAS CARRYING STORY ON ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR'S MEETING
 WITH AMIN, WAS OBVIOUSLY MOST PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF HIS
 EFFORT ON OUR BEHALF. HE SURMISED THAT MOST RECENT POSTPONEMENT
 OF MEETING WITH AMERICANS MAY HAVE BEEN RESULT OF HIS INTERVENTION.
- 3. I THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, AND USEFUL IN CASE WE NEED MOBUTU'S FURTHER HELP, FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO SEND BRIEF PERSONAL MESSAGE THANKING MOBUTU FOR HIS IMMEDIATE, VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO OUR APPEAL FOR HELP. MESSAGE COULD BE CONVEYED WHEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE AND I MEET WITH MOBUTU ON SATURDAY, MARCH 5.

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: INTERVENTION, DETENTION, PERSONNEL, DEMARCHE, REPORTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA01745
Document Source: Core

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770069-1149

Format: TEL From: KINSHASA **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703106/aaaadpol.tel

Line Count: 76 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2a0728ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: SECRET Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS Reference: 77 KINSHASA 1685

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2952993 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: MOBUTU\'S INTERVENTION WITH AMIN

TAGS: PFOR, CG, UG, US

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a0728ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009